

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

~~— a charge processor unit;~~

~~a camera operable in condition that an appropriate fee has been paid for creating video bitstream; and~~

a processor unit operatively connected to the camera, for adding a copy protection code corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~a paid fee to ~~[[the]]~~a video bitstream or still image information created by ~~said~~the camera ~~to~~for output.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information, and operable in a condition that ~~[[the]]~~an appropriate fee has been paid or will be ~~positively paid~~ at a designated time ~~as soon as possible~~; and

means for creating ~~output of a copy protection code corresponding to the paid fee together~~ to be associated with ~~said~~the video bitstream or still image information depending on a paid fee.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus comprising:

a communication interface connectable to an external terminal;

~~a charge processor unit;~~

a camera for creating ~~output of~~ and recording a video bitstream or still image information by video or still image recording for a predetermined period of time in response to ~~[[the]]~~ a start recording instruction from a user in ~~condition that the~~ when an appropriate fee has been paid to said charge processor;

a display unit for displaying ~~the~~ a recorded video bitstream or still image information; and

means for feeding to said external terminal device ~~through~~ via said interface, ~~said~~ the video bitstream or still image information added to ~~the~~ together with a copy protection code in ~~correspondence with~~ created depending on ~~[[the]]~~ an amount of a paid fee in response to ~~[[the]]~~ an instruction ~~[[of]]~~ from the user indicating that the video bitstreams or still image information displayed is acceptable.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising: a charge processor unit and a display unit, in which the display unit for displaying displays a paid fee and the number of allowed copies allowed of the video recording and the fee corresponding thereto which is fixed in correspondence with the paid fee.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, further comprising:

means for selecting a background; and

a synthesizer for synthesizing said ~~the~~ video recorded bitstream or still image

information with a selected background.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, ~~wherein~~further comprising:

means for obtaining audio bitstream ~~is obtained along with said camera to feed the audio stream to said external device along with said~~the video bitstream or still image information.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus~~[[,]]~~ comprising:

camera means for ~~video creating and recording video or a still image~~ for a predetermined period of time ~~to creating a video bitstream in response to a start recording instruction from a user in~~ a condition that the corresponding an appropriate fee is paid or positively charged;

means for generating an ID uniquely identifying said a recorded video or still image for each of recorded video; and

transmitter means for transmitting said ID to a terminal and for transmitting said ID ~~[[and]]~~with said ~~video-recorded bitstream~~video or still image to a server.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

a copy protection code corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~an amount of a paid fee is incorporated in said ID.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information generating apparatus, comprising:

a communication interface connectable to a server;

~~— a charge processor unit;~~

a camera means responsive to a start recording instruction from a user, in condition that a fee is deposited to said charge processor for creating and output of recording a video recording bitstream or still image information for a predetermined period of time;

display means for displaying said a recorded video bitstream or still image information;

means for feeding to said server, through via said interface, said the video bitstream or still image information added to ~~the~~ together with a copy protection code created in correspondence with [[the]]an amount of a paid fee in response to [[the]]an instruction [[of]]from the user indicating that the video bitstream or still image information displayed is acceptable.

Claim 10-11 (Cancelled):

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A multimedia communication terminal apparatus~~[[,]]~~ comprising:

means for receiving and storing an ID code specifying a video bitstream or a still image ~~created and stored~~ in a storage of a server;

means for creating a destination [[text]]information; and

means for transmitting said ID code and said destination information to said

~~server, to distribute~~ wherein said server distributes the video bitstream or still image
specified by said ID code to [[said]] a destination specified by said server destination
information.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A video or still image distribution
server[[,]] comprising:

means for receiving and storing into a storage a video encoded-bitstream or
still image information ~~created and in association with a~~ first ID uniquely specifying
[[said]] the video bitstream or still image information;

means for receiving from a communication terminal, a transmission request
including [[the]] destination information and a second ID identifying the video
bitstream or still image information, retrieving from the storage a video bitstream or
still image information having the first ID matched with the second ID, and ~~forwarding~~
distributing the appropriate-retrieved video bitstream or still image information to a
destination specified by said destination information.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A video or still image distribution
server according to claim 13, further comprising: ~~wherein said the first ID including~~
includes a copy protection code; and, and the server includes a management unit for
updating the copy protection code for each time of distribution [[for]] so as to inhibiting
inhibit the transmission-distribution of said the video bitstream or still image
information when the copy protection code reaches ~~to zero~~ a predetermined number.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information

system[[,]] comprising:

a video or still information generating apparatus;

a first multimedia communication terminal; and

a distribution server.

[[a]]wherein said video or still information generating apparatus

havingcomprises:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information in
a condition that the correspondinga necessary fee is paid or will be
positively paid soonat predetermined time; and

means for addingrelating a copy protection code corresponding
to thea paid fee to the video bitstream or still image information;
wherein said first multimedia communication terminal havingcomprises:

a storage device for storing the video bitstream or still image
information transferred from said video information generating
apparatus;

a memory for storing the copy protection code of said video
bitstream-transferred from said video information generating apparatus
together with the video bitstream or still image information;

transmission means for transmitting saidthe video bitstream or
still image information stored in said storage device to a specified
destination; and

controller means for inhibiting the transmission oftransmission
means from transmitting the said video bitstream or still image
informationthrough a communication interface when the number of

allowed copies specified by the copy protection code becomes

~~[[0]]~~zero; and

~~[[a]]~~wherein said distribution server ~~for sending~~transfers the video bitstream or still image information ~~transferred-received~~ from said first multimedia communication terminal to a second multimedia communication terminal at said specified destination.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A video or still image information system~~[[,]]~~ comprising:

a video or still information generating apparatus;

a distribution server; and

a first multimedia communication terminal;

~~[[a]]~~wherein said video or still information generating apparatus, ~~having~~ comprises:

means for creating a video bitstream or still image information in condition that ~~[[the]]~~an appropriate fee is paid or will be positively paid ~~soon~~ at a predetermined time;

means for outputting ~~said~~the video bitstream or still image information together with a copy protection code issued in correspondence with ~~the~~a fee paid; and

means for outputting an ID identifying ~~said~~the video bitstream or still image information;

~~[[a]]~~wherein said video distribution server is configured for receiving and storing to receive and store ~~said-created~~the video bitstream or still image information

as well as the ID identifying said ~~the~~ video bitstream or still image information;

~~[[a]]~~ wherein said first multimedia communication terminal, having comprises:

means for receiving and storing the ID identifying the video
bitstream or still image information stored in said video distribution
server;

means for creating ~~[[the]]~~ a destination; and

means for transmitting said ~~the~~ ID and said ~~the~~ destination to said
video distribution server for requesting the to request said video
distribution server to distribution of said distribute the video bitstream or
still image information; and

wherein said video distribution server further comprising comprises means for
comparing the ID ~~and destination~~ received from said first multimedia communication
terminal with the ID received from said video information generating apparatus in
order to retrieve a ~~corresponding requested~~ video bitstream or still image information
in the storage ~~in order and~~ to distribute the ~~appropriate requested~~ video bitstream or
still image information to a second multimedia communication terminal specified by
said destination.

Claim 17 (New): A video information generating apparatus
comprising:

a communication interface provided to interface with an external terminal;

a charge processor;

a camera for creating output of a video bitstream by video recording for a
predetermined period of time in response to a start recording instruction from a user,

when an appropriate fee has been paid to the charge processor;

a display unit for displaying a recorded video bitstream;

means for feeding to said external terminal, via said communication interface, the video bitstream added to a copy protection code created depending on an amount of a paid fee in response to an instruction of the user indicating that the video displayed is acceptable; and

means for enabling a visual display of the number of copies allowed of the video recording and the paid fee corresponding thereto.

Claim 18 (New): A video information generating apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for selecting a background;

a synthesizer for synthesizing the recorded video bitstream with a selected background.

Claim 19 (New): A video information generating apparatus according to claim 17, wherein an audio bitstream is obtained along with said camera to feed the audio bitstream to said external device along with the video bitstream.

Claim 20 (New): A video information generating apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a copy protection code manager for managing the number of copies by extracting the copy protection code from the video bitstream; and

a controller for inhibiting transmission of the video bitstream, via said communication interface, when the number of allowed copies becomes zero (0).